

palestine perspectives

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The terror unleashed upon the Palestinians by Israel does indeed grow out of a calculated, though hysterical, policy. The goals of this policy have become increasingly clear as Israel went about its business, in April, of destroying the national voice of the Palestinians under occupation, through the destruction of their established national institutions and the expulsion of their elected officials; the killing and the wounding of scores of protestors, one of them a youngster of eight, and another a woman in her seventies; and the blatant colonization of the West Bank/Gaza through the establishment of more Jewish settlements on Arab lands.

The goals of this policy are to seek the permanent subjugation of the Palestinians and to complete the total takeover of their homeland — leaving no room whatsoever for a peace settlement of any kind that may address itself (even partially) to the question of the rights of the people of Palestine to freedom, statehood and national self-determination.

The *fait accompli* that Israeli occupation in Palestine wants to assert derives from the purely colonial notion that it is possible (as it was possible in the middle of the last century) to reduce a subjugated people to a fragment, who then become fair game for abuse (as they seemed to be throughout the whole month of April), since, as a nameless, faceless fragment, they are, after all, an abstraction.

Israel is not, hence, saying that it is prepared to negotiate a settlement with the Palestinians were the Palestinians to comply with certain conditions; rather Israel is saying, very directly and very repeatedly, that under no conditions — under no conditions whatsoever — will it recognize

Palestinian rights.

All of this was amply demonstrated on an ABC news show in the last week of April where Elias Freij, a Palestinian mayor from the West Bank, was expressing his personal view that the Palestinians must recognize Israel in order that the move may be a stepping stone toward the equal recognition of Palestinian statehood — and the camera then shifted to Ariel Sharon who exclaimed in response, his voice displaying the contempt and arrogance of the colonial overlord, that “we don’t need their recognition,” and went on to assert that Israel would never return one inch of the West Bank to the Palestinians, would never recognize Palestinian statehood in any form, and would never negotiate with the P.L.O.

The consequences of such an interactive relationship between Israelis and Palestinians, based as it is on the dichotomy of occupier-occupied, state-stateless, (the only relationship that Israel has chosen to adopt with the Palestinians) will undoubtedly have far reaching consequences.

Very simply it will act, daily so to speak, to affect the future of Israel and the Palestinians in dialectically opposite ways: The more Israel pursues its campaign of terror and colonization in Palestine, the more it will, in time, be creating conditions for its further insecurity in the region and further antagonism toward it by not only the Arab world but indeed the whole world. Moreover, as the *New York Times*’ David Shipler reported, Israel, by these actions, “will be swept by deepening grief and worry.” Shipler additionally quoted Felicia Langer, the Israeli activist, as saying: “This occupation is a disaster for Israeli society. It is corrupting, it is leading to cruelty, to immorality ... if you are in Ramallah and shooting as you see fit, you can not return home and remain the same as you were before. It is some sort of chain reaction. First of all, Palestinianism is a crime, then the supporter of Palestinians is a criminal, then the one who publishes what the Palestinians say is a criminal, then the one who defends the one who publishes is a criminal. The Palestinian, he can be beaten, but he has no right to cry. And we have no right to even know that he cries.”

Conversely, however, the more the Palestinians struggle against their condition of occupation and exile, against the thug tactics of Israeli settlers and the bestialities of Israeli occupation practices, the more they are likely to grow in commitment and strength, and to become richer in struggle. That is the inescapable dialectic that has, throughout history, characterized the oppressor and his victim. And in this case, the more Israelis brutalize, the more they are (without perhaps realizing it) brutalizing themselves — and triggering the Palestinians to achieve, in struggle, a

Israeli Terror vs. Palestinian Resistance

revitalizing center for their sense of place and national identity. It is doubtful that there could be a set of circumstances, outside the total genocide of Palestinians, that could make the people of Palestine cease their commitment to be free, independent and the only determining force in the destiny.

As a Palestinian poet in the West Bank asserted to the French daily, *Le Monde*, upon having his work confiscated and himself incarcerated: “We welcome censorship. In our work, as Palestinian poets, writers and artists, working and living under military occupation (an occupation whose insecurity leads it to impose upon us awesome measure of control) we feel that censorship has indeed helped our work, that is, in a dialectical sense. Now because of it, we use explicitly Palestinian allusions and metaphors that are part of the everyday currency of our readers but that pass over the head of the Israeli censor. Censorship compels us to sharpen, to handle more expertly (thus to enrich) the material that we draw on for our work. Palestinian literature is acquiring, under occupation, and again for dialectical reasons, a subtler nuance to it.”

Indeed, this could apply as well, for different reasons but with the same results, to every other segment of Palestinian society, a society that virtually has every individual in it engaged in struggle for freedom.

Thus, as Israel impoverishes (by killing and subjugating Palestinians) it also enriches. And as Israel grows more pathological in pursuit of violence and expansionism, it will inevitably grow ever more insecure as a “state”, more meaningless as a Jewish entity, and more ostracised by the international community.

It is both interesting and exceedingly ironic that Israel today is the only place in the world where Jews do not feel safe.



Chairman Arafat: No One Can Smash the Palestinian People

by Grace Halsell



Beirut — As the Palestinian leadership in Lebanon sees it, the Israelis have been tightening the noose around their people in the West Bank and Gaza, while simultaneously poisoning a reported 40,000 Israeli soldiers on the border with Lebanon. They have said, in effect, to Yasser Arafat: now do anything that breaks the cease-fire and we will attack, with massive force.

The Israelis have said, moreover, that they would consider an attack against any Israeli anywhere as violation of the cease-fire, which until this new, arbitrary Israeli interpretation had meant a cessation of fighting along the Lebanon-Israeli border.

Then, on the heels of this new interpretation of the part of the Israelis came the shooting of an Israeli diplomat in Paris, by an unidentified woman. And Israelis threatened to use this incident as reason for invading Lebanon.

Arafat said the PLO had nothing to do with that murder, and other PLO leaders said they thought the Israelis planned the murder themselves — in order to blame the PLO.

Pressures have been mounting on Arafat from two quarters: the Americans want him to do nothing to give Israel an excuse for not returning the Sinai to Egypt, and to do nothing that might give Israel an excuse for invading Lebanon.

On the other hand, I heard reporters repeatedly asking Arafat, What are you doing to protect your people inside the occupied territories? They have only stones. You have weapons. What are you doing for them?

One tense day of possible Israeli attack follows another. As tense as the days of April were for top PLO leadership, they nevertheless made time to visit with me. They still have hope that Americans, the vast majority of people, will become educated about Zionism and move their government to stop the Israelis — as the American people moved their government to stop the war in Vietnam.

One evening I ate dinner in the home of Khalil Ibrahim Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, and he said PLO Intelligence reports indicated that the Israelis would bomb Beirut at 6 a.m., the following morning.

I returned to my hotel near the Mediterranean and waked at 5:30 a.m., listening for the attack, wondering if I might be killed by American-made bombs falling from American-made warplanes, so indiscriminately given to Zionist aggressors.

At 6 a.m., I heard a plane, and, looking from a balcony, was with relief an Airbus 300 lowering for a landing at nearby Beirut airport.

In the Abu Jihad home, his wife Intisar has served a sumptuous Arab meal, and guests — the women well dressed, with little or no jewelry — seemed relaxed. Abu Jihad had come a little late, while we were eating, looking like any businessman — with a folder of papers in his hand, ready to shed the cares of the day to relax with his wife and four children and friends.

How, I later wondered, could he take the time to visit, to laugh? How could he appear to be relaxed, when his Intelligence indicated the Israelis were preparing to hit so hard they would eliminate all Palestinians, in order then to say to the world: There is no Palestinian problem, there are no Palestinians.

I have asked the Palestinians how they deal with the psychological as well as the military warfare of the Israelis. By now, they say, they have had decades of practice. But the strain does wear, it is costly, debilitating. As one example, in the Beirut Red Crescent hospital one sees many premature Palestinian babies. The mothers were under psychological strain, one is told.

Chairman Arafat, asked how he felt about the pressures applied on him from the right and left, from those who want him to break the cease-fire and from those who do not want him to break the cease-fire, replied to me in an Arabic verse, which he then translated into English:

"I will be patient, until my patient is fed up with patience."

He explained that the verse uses the word patience seven times, and that in Arabic the word patience also means a cactus, and that its thorns can cut and "its taste can be bitter."

I was sitting in one of Arafat's Beirut offices in the midst of another crisis. He lives a crisis day by day, and somehow manages to keep smiling and keep optimistic, despite the "bitter" taste of restraint.

Only the day before, a crazed 37-year-old man from Baltimore, Maryland — a man who holds both Israeli and American passports, this being allowed because of America's special relationship with Zionism — had stormed into the sacred Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, killing and wounding Arabs.

As I sat with him, Arafat was on a telephone to leaders of the Arab world, arranging that they call a day of protest for the desecration of the mosque.

Despite his having to be on the alert for an attack, which he feels can come at any moment from the Israelis invading by massive forces into Lebanon, he took time to visit with me, because he still has hopes that the American people, if they learn the facts of Zionism, will cease sending blank checks for Israeli aggression.

The chairman, dressed in khaki trousers, shirt and jacket, and wearing the traditional kaffiyeh, was seated back of a desk. Chairs forming a semi-circle in front of his desk were occupied by a half-dozen military advisers and other aides.

I suggested that in the current difficult time, he instilled hope and courage in his people, but he abruptly and sharply cut me off.

"No. I will give you a very important slogan. In our area there are many important leaders among their people and the leaders are more important than their people, but among the Palestinian people, the people are more important than their leaders." He paused and reiterated his theory:

"The Palestinian people are greater, more important than their leaders. The Palestinian people in their totality have been greater in their sacrifices and their humanism, more than those who came and claimed to be the leaders of these people. It is the people, not the leaders, who show optimism, determination, consciousness of victory."

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Israeli Repression Won't Defeat Palestinians



them to demonstrate. They have had enough with fifteen years of military curfews, check point, arrests, confiscation of lands and property, closing of schools and universities, and all forms of Israeli military repression. They are, like all other oppressed peoples, fighting for their freedom.

Milson repeats this racist view by saying the Palestinians carry an "evil doctrine", thus they must not express their views and influence Israeli thinking. According to him, Israeli views are totally democratic, pure civilized and should not be corrupted by the evil Palestinian Arab doctrines. Obviously Colonel Milson and his boss, Defense Minister Sharon, can continue this repression and ugly racist segregationist policy as long as the U.S. government provides them with the weapons and money to remain as superior powerful military rulers over the two million Palestinians. They are betting on the ugliest in American foreign policy, and this most probably will not continue because the American people will not support and foot the bills of Israeli military occupation, Israeli racism, suppression and segregation directed against the Palestinian Arabs. The Palestinian's dream and hope, for freedom is close to the hearts of Americans. Martin Luther King, like other strugglers for freedom, gave his life for that dream. He knew that despite the repression and shooting of unarmed Blacks in the south, his people would achieve freedom. The Palestinians, despite the grave ordeal, suffering and pain, are closer to fulfilling this dream of freedom.

The Israeli military repression against Palestinians and takeover of legally elected Palestinian municipal councils in the occupied West Bank is not very different from the military repression in Guatemala. Yet, few editorials have been written in the U.S. clearly condemning this Israeli military repression and calling on the U.S. government to cut off military aid to Israel, as done in the Guatemala case. Why the double standard?

Israeli military governors in the West Bank and Gaza have imposed military curfews, denied freedom of speech and assembly, fired legally elected mayors, and killed or wounded dozens of unarmed young demonstrators. Why is there a "liberal" equivocation and hesitancy to clearly condemn these undemocratic, criminal practices by the Israeli military government?

Instead, the American media has given prominence to Lieutenant Colonel Menachem Milson's justifications of Israeli repression. As a typical army colonel, Milson believes he can eradicate Palestinian doctrines and political views with military curfews, tanks, elite paratroopers and bullets, and he expects the American people to accept this. The elected Palestinian mayors must not articulate the grievances and aspirations of their Palestinian constituency, thus Milson's boss, Defense Minister Sharon issued the orders to remove them from City Hall, and replace them with gun carrying Israeli colonels. Milson calls the two mayors of Nablus and Ramallah "terrorist anti-semites". No wonder his government could not find those who planted bombs in their

cars and maimed them for life. The Israeli colonel, the military ruler and oppressor of Palestinians, points an accusing finger at his mutilated, bleeding and exiled victims. Bombs have not silenced the two mayors, so Colonel Milson thinks house arrest will.

What is wrong with a Palestinian doctrine that says Jews, Christians and Moslems should live together with equal rights in a secular society rather than in a theocracy? A doctrine that says the Palestinians, like the Israelis, should have a state and co-exist in two states with equal rights? What is evil about preaching peace based on coexistence between Jews, Christians and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians?

Prime Minister Begin and his military generals have not, however, hidden their real aim. They publicly and shamelessly argue that the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza belong to Israel, the Palestinian Arabs are alien residents, the land they lived on for centuries must be taken over and they must be expelled. Those who remain, would cooperate with the Israeli occupation authorities, and provide Israeli factories, kibbutzes and restaurants with cheap labor. According to General Sharon, Palestinians should voluntarily leave their homes and farms and move to Jordan, thus donating their private property to Russian, British and American Jewish settlers for free. God you see, said so. He said Palestinians must become stateless refugees to accomodate Israeli settlers.

The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are rebelling and demonstrating because they are fed up with Israeli military oppression, persecution and takeover of their lands. The PLO does not need to tell





Israeli Terror in Occupied Palestine

of the youth, Muhammad 'Abd Allah Sihwayl said the victim appeared to have been beaten before being shot in the head." (Washington Post, 3/23/82).

"The youth was seized by armed settlers from Shiloh and his body was found a week



later near the victim's village. The victim's mother said a week ago, before the body was discovered, that (Israeli) police has assured her that her son was in army custody in Ramallah." (New York Times, 3/22/82).

Farhan Ali Isa al-Khadur al-Mansarah (18)

In Bani Naim, an Israeli settler opened fire and killed an 18 year old Palestinian student (New York Times, 3/25/82).

Ibrahim Darwish Kuran (17)

"...was fatally shot in the chest by Israeli troops during a demonstration Saturday, March 20, at the al-Bireh City Hall." (Washington Post, 3/23/82).

Muhammad Hamid al-Baha (17).

"A Palestinian teenager was shot dead yesterday and two other Arabs wounded as the Israeli army continued to use gunfire to suppress violent demonstrations throughout the West Bank. The youth ... was the second Arab killed by soldiers' bullets in four days of anti-Israeli violence." (Baltimore Sun, 3/23/82).

Fathi Isa Kalsa (21).

"In Jenin, a 21 year old Palestinian ... was shot by an Israeli border policeman. (New York Times, 3/25/82).

Muhammad Hamid Dhib (age unknown).

"Another Palestinian student was shot and killed in a demonstration in the village of Abasan, near Khan Yunis, when an Israeli army troop attempted to disperse a demonstration." (Washington Post, 3/25/82).

The Violence of Israeli Settlers

The following are reported incidents and activities of Israeli settlers vis a vis Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories. All are from U.S. media sources.

"Frightened Arabs in a remote village reported that people in a nearby Israeli settlement repeatedly used a bulldozer to block the entrance to their village and poured sand into the fuel tank of their electric generator." (From an editorial by Anthony Lewis, New York Times, 4/5/82).

"In Ramallah ... when an Israeli television crew and a photographer trained their cameras on (a demonstration by Arab school children) they met the wrath of a shooting settler. 'You take one picture, and we'll do you worse than we did to Shakaa and Khalaf,' the settler screamed referring to the Nablus mayor and to ... the mayor of Ramallah, who lost a foot in a car bomb attack. 'They only lost their legs ... we'll blow your head off.'" (Newsweek, 4/5/82).

"Television crews filmed two other settlers firing rifles at a crowd that had stoned a busload of children. Palestinian sources here said other settlers have 'kidnapped' three Arab youths from in front of a hospital in Ramallah."

"Before that they had slashed tires, broken windows and come into our village shooting at night," said Radwan Abu Ayyash, a journalist for the Palestine Press Service." (Chicago Tribune, 3/25/82).

"Last week, ... on at least one occasion, settlers fired indiscriminately into a crowd of Arab youths while nearby Israeli soldiers did nothing to stop them." (Time, 4/5/82).

Israeli Annexation of the Occupied West Bank

The ultimate goal of the Israeli government with regard to the recent activities in the occupied West Bank is the total annexation of the area. This conclusion has not only been reached by Palestinians, but by others as well. Consider the following statements:

According to Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations and a member of the Israeli opposition Labor Party: "What they are doing is trying to drive the Palestinians out of the West Bank. They are annexing the

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The uprising which started last November 1 with the coming of the Israeli civilian government reached its peak on March 18, when Israeli authorities dissolved the al-Bireh Municipal Council and dismissed Ibrahim al-Tawil, the elected city mayor.

Armed Israeli soldiers and settlers terrorized the Palestinian residents who tried to express their feelings of frustration and anger in response to the aggressive Zionist measures which were carried out by Ariel Sharon, the Defense Minister, and Menachem Milson, the head of the civil administration. To date, six Palestinian youths have been killed by the bullets of the soldiers and the fanatic settlers who continue to spread terror everywhere in the occupied territories.

The following are exemplary descriptions from the U.S. press of the six slain Palestinian youths killed thus far:

Muhammad 'Abd Allah Sihwayl (18) "An 18 year old Palestinian youth ... was found (Friday, March 19) near the Shiloh settlement between Ramallah and Nablus. Palestinian sources who examined the body

CHRONOLOGY:

ISRAELI TERRORISM AND MASS KILLINGS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

- March 13 Israeli troops impose military curfew on al-Duheisha Refugee Camp; arrest Palestinians in Qalandiya Camp.
Journalist Radwan Abu Ayyash (al-Shaab) arrested.
Israel arrests large number of Syrian Druze in Golan Heights, including two leaders Hayel Hussein Abu Jabal and Adel Abu Jabal.
- March 16 Inhabitants of Duheisha Camp forced to leave homes at night. Students arrested.
- March 19 Demonstrations in al-Birah and Ramallah to protest dismissal of town councils. Israeli troops arrest many demonstrators.
Mayor Wahid Hamidallah of Anabta arrested.
Youths arrested in Golan Heights.
- March 22 Israeli troops killed and wounded Palestinians in Dayr Anmar Village. Muhamed Hamed, 19 years old, a refugee camp resident killed.
- March 26 Palestinian newspapers banned in Jerusalem and West Bank.
Palestinian youth injured by Israeli soldiers in Hebron.
- March 27 Mayor Bassam Shaka under house arrest, and Mayor Karim Khalaf exiled to Jericho.
Young man wounded by armed Israeli settlers near Kiryat Arba.
Israeli soldiers wound more than six Palestinians (Issam Abu Taha, Mahmoud and Husein Abu Iyada, Subhi Abu Libda, Sabri Khaled Lafri, Ibrahim Ahmead Juma, and Saleh Hindi) in Rafah.
Israeli troops storm houses in Bethlehem and force inhabitants out.
Israeli troops fire at demonstrators in Nazareth and wound Palestinians.
- March 31 Israeli troops impose curfew on Beit Jala.
Israeli troops arrest Palestinians in Sakhnine and Araba.
Eleven Palestinians wounded by Israeli soldiers in Galilee.
Israeli troops wound three Nablus municipality employees (Hamdi al-Qousas, Nimer Ya'esh and Salim al-Kaakani).
Israeli troops open fire on demonstrators in Beit Sahour, arrest more than fifty people in Duheisha Camp.
Israeli troops wound two Palestinians in Jericho and arrest 150 inhabitants.
Troops storm al-Fajr newspaper offices and arrest editors of newspaper and 18 employees.
- April 1 Eight Palestinians arrested in Sakhuine, Araba and Deir Hanna, and more than twenty in Galilee area.
Israeli troops wound eight in Duheisha Camp.
Bethlehem Deputy Mayor George Hazboun arrested and questioned by Israeli soldiers.
Two Palestinians die in Jenin hospital, third in critical condition.
Israeli troops arrest 37 inhabitants in Jenin.
Israeli troops wound five Palestinians in Galilee (Los Angeles Times 31/3/82).
- April 2 Israeli troops sealed shops of mayors of Jenin and Bethlehem.
Israeli troops beat editor of al-Bayader magazine, Nada Khazmo, who is in coma in hospital.
Israeli troops arrest Palestinians, including Azme al-Shouaybi of Bireh City Council.
Israeli troops wound four Druze protestors in Golan Heights (Washington Post (3/7/82), including 74 year old man, a woman and boy.
Druze leader Kamal Kanj arrested by Israeli troops.
- April 3 Israeli troops encircle towns of Beit Sahour, Duheisha, Husan.
Palestinian women arrested in Nablus.
Israeli troops impose curfews on villages in Hebron.
Israeli troops wound four Arabs in Golan Heights.
- April 4 Israeli troops arrest more than 100 members of Arab political parties in Galilee, and school teachers.



Victims of Israeli Terrorism



Palestinian men, women and children wounded by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza in one week only (*al-Itihad* Newspaper, Tel Aviv, April 20, 1982).

CHRONOLOGY:

- April 5 Israeli troops storm homes in Golan Heights, and fire at inhabitants. More than five wounded. Israeli troops encircle al-Najah University. Israeli armed settlers storm Haram al-Sharif, wounding guardian of mosque, Mahmoud Jaffal. Palestinians arrested in Khan Younis and other Palestinian towns.
- April 6 Body of Palestinian youth Adnan Saleh Mansour, found near Ramallah, mutilated and beheaded. Israeli settlers kidnapped and tortured Palestinians, including Mansour and Abdullah Sahwell. Israeli troops continue to encircle Ramallah, Birah and Nablud.
- April 7 Israeli warplanes, tanks and Israeli soldiers move inside south Lebanon. Israeli troops practice fighting in Lebanese village, Klijam. (Los Angeles Times 7/4/82).
Israeli military court puts Mayor of Anabta on trial.
- April 8 Israeli army and Israeli armed Arabs attack Bethlehem University, beat university officials. Bomb planted in Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem by Jewish extremists discovered (Wash. Post 9/4/82).
Israeli troops impose military curfew on Balata Camp near Nablus.
Israeli troops arrest Palestinians in Khan Younis, Rafah and Deir al-Balal in Gaza Strip.
- April 9 Israeli soldier shot and killed Palestinian woman (50 years old) Azizah Husein Issa, while working in field in Ein Yahroud, (New York Times, April 9, 1982).
Fifteen year old Sidqui Qassum wounded near Nablus.
- April 10 Israeli troops surround al-Aqsa mosque and breakup a sit-in.
Salim Ahmed Yehya, died in Israeli prison in Jenin after 12 years of detention.
Israeli army reservist, Alan Goodman, attacks Dome of the Rock mosque and kills two Palestinians during prayers inside mosque. Israeli army wounds more than 100 Palestinians outside mosque. (Wash. Post (12/4/82).
- April 11 Armed Israeli settlers attack Palestinians during prayer at Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem. Six killed and more than 150 wounded.
Israeli troops open fire and wound Palestinian demonstrators.
Guardian of Mosque Haj Saleh al-Yamarri (65 years old) wounded.
17 year old boy shot in Ramallah by Israeli soldiers (NYT April 12, 1982).
- April 12 Israeli troops shot and wounded seven Palestinians in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and arrested more than seventy Palestinians in East Jerusalem.
Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 30 Palestinians in Gaza, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. More than 150 Palestinians were treated in hospitals in Jerusalem.
Israeli cameraman, Eli Fastman, also shot by Israeli troops in Jerusalem (Wash. Post 13/4/82).
- April 13 Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 13 Palestinians in Jerusalem (Los Angeles Times 14/4/82).
Eight year old child killed by Israeli soldiers in Gaza, 20 Palestinians wounded (New York Times 14/4/82).
- April 14 Two Palestinian youths wounded by Israeli soldiers in Hebron and Kalandia refugee camp. (New York Times (15/4/82). 30 Palestinians wounded by Israeli troops in Gaza, and Israeli soldiers attacked hospital in Gaza and arrested Dr. Zuhar Mord (Wash. Post, 15/4/82).
- April 16 Two Palestinian children killed by Israeli soldiers and more than 40 injured in Gaza Strip. Two five year old girls (Dina Baurah and Faridah Abu Khater) shot in head by Israeli soldiers. Three Palestinians wounded in West Bank, including an 18 year old woman and 19 year old boy (Chicago Tribune 17/4/82).
- April 21 More than 23 Palestinians and Lebanese civilians killed and several dozen wounded as result of Israeli air raids on Damour, Naameh and Sadiyat villages near Beirut (Wash. Post 22/4/82).
- April 26 Two Palestinians, including a nine year old school boy were wounded by Israeli soldiers. More than seventy Palestinians wounded by Israeli soldiers in the past six weeks. (Washington Post 27/4/82).
- April 28 Two Palestinian students shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers at school in Yamoum, West Bank. (Los Angeles Times 28/4/82).
Forty Palestinians wounded in Jabalin refugee camp.
- April 29 Israeli soldiers shot and killed Palestinians and wounded three in Nablus.
Body of 30 year old Palestinian found in Qalailya, West Bank. (Wafa News).
Two eighteen year old Palestinians shot and killed by Israeli troops; ten wounded in Halhoul and Sair.
Abu Fatah Husein, 18 years old, also died in Jerusalem hospital.
Eight Palestinians also wounded by Israeli soldiers in Nablus, and one Palestinian also killed in Anata Village. (NYT 30/4/82).
- May 1 Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded four in West Bank. (Los Angeles Times 1/5/82).

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Israeli Treatment Feeds Palestinian Resistance

Jamil Hamad



Bethlehem, Israeli-Occupied West Bank — It is 15 years since Israel subjugated the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 war. The generation that has grown up under the occupation has never known a world without military government, identity cards, checkpoints, spurious arrests and collective punishments. Schools have been periodically shut, parents interrogated and houses razed by Israeli bulldozers.

Much of the anger felt by Palestinians in the occupied areas following the 1967 defeat was directed against Arab countries that participated in the war. The Palestinians had not been partners in the war, which left them as its principal victims, and a large part of their reaction to the Israeli soldiers and tanks occupying the West Bank was a sense of feeling "let down" by the Arab regimes that had "lost the war for them."

Between 1967 and 1970 the rise of the Palestine Liberation Organization began to remove this humiliation and sense of abandonment. But the Jordanian crackdown on PLO activities that began in

September 1970 left West Bank Palestinians with a renewed feeling of inferiority, a sense that they were outcasts both in their own land and among their Arab neighbors.

Vicious Syrian massacres of Palestinians living in Lebanon, particularly the raid at the Tel Zaatar refugee camp in 1976, were more reminders that Palestinian refugees were expendable and were not partners or "equal" Arabs.

The Israeli setback in October 1973 showed Palestinians that Israel was not invulnerable. But they still felt the swords of occupation on their necks as Israel continued to strengthen its hold on the West Bank and Gaza.

All this has fed the growth of political and civilian resistance, particularly among the young generation that has grown up under the occupation. Harsh Israeli treatment of young Palestinians has helped them forge an identity as an abandoned, victimized people.

Boys of 12 or 15 are routinely thrown in jail merely on the suspicion that they have

taken part in stone-throwing incidents or set up roadblocks. I know a boy of 15 who spent two nights in a cold jail cell, and I saw his face when he emerged. He was no street tough or hoodlum but a well-behaved teenager from an educated middle-class family. The boy described how soldiers had spat in his face, slapped him, called him vicious names, and sworn at him — and he told me, "I am going to have my revenge on them." Not long after this, he printed a pamphlet, "How to make a bomb."

Another boy, Ziyad, was incarcerated for two months in an underground cell simply for having "suspicious contacts." He was never brought to trial. Two days after his release, he crossed the Allenby Bridge into Jordan and is now in another Arab country getting military training in guerilla warfare.

How can any father in the West Bank today, even myself, be certain his son is not a "Ziyad"? How can he be certain his son, whose political activities he may know nothing of, will not be arrested tomorrow, and because of that experience become a hardened militant?

But perhaps the saddest thing facing any parent in the West Bank is that the sons who leave Ramallah, or Nablus or Bethlehem, seeking education in Baghdad, Damascus, Bonn, Paris or Brussels — or even New York City or Washington — will most likely never return to their hometowns to join the family business, to rear children, to take care of their parents. These young professional people, who have grown up under a harsh occupation and a failing Israeli economy, know that there is no future for them in the West Bank and Gaza.

Who will inherit a Palestinian state? The ones who know fighting but not government, who know only revenge not moderation, who are not ready to yield and have never learned to compromise.

(Jamil Hamad is a Palestinian journalist.)

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| May 2 | A 12 year old Palestinian girl critically wounded by Israeli soldiers in village of Arub. (Washington Post 3/5/82). |
| May 3 | Israeli troops broke up a sit-in at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher with gunfire. Rafik Halaby, a Druze correspondent for Israeli television threatened with removal from his assignment after a report he did in which Druze accused the army of mistreatment. (New York Times 5/5/82). |
| May 5 | An eighteen year-old Arab woman was shot and killed by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip. Five other Arabs were wounded in the incident. Military authorities closed the village of Dura after protestors raised the Palestinian flag. (Washington Post 5/5/82). |

Officer Tries to Rape Rafah Schoolgirl

Gaza Strip Arabs are convinced that the reports about the rape of a local schoolgirl by an Israeli officer are true, and have rejected all denials by the military government. According to the local people, the army is doing everything to encourage a flight of inhabitants from the Gaza Strip.

The army has put down the riots which broke out in Rafah about the partitioning of the town and the events in the West Bank, and has thwarted attempts to hold a general strike in the Gaza Strip over the rape case. An officer is said to have arrived at a place where about fifty schoolgirls were being held after participating in a demonstration in Rafah. The man told a fifteen-year-old girl who was being detained there that she could go home, because she was not connected with the incident. The girl believed him and he volunteered to drive her home, but instead he drove her to a cemetery and tried to rape her there. Her screams alerted two Beduin who happened to pass by, and the officer then fled with the girl in the direction of Razi. He stopped in an orange grove where he ripped off the girl's clothes. She was heard screaming by people nearby. Eventually the man fled and local women covered up the girl, who was bleeding badly. When she got home, she told her parents about the incident, and her father rushed to tell the townhall. *After that the rioting started.* A doctor who examined the girl found that she was still a virgin but had been assaulted. The spokesman for the civilian administration of the Gaza Strip is refusing to comment on the case.

According to local people, the military governor proposed that the officer should apologise over the incident. This was rejected by the local council, and the military governor then told them that the officer had been arrested and would be tried, and that he would inform the council of the court ruling. The council has issued a statement demanding the maximum punishment for the man.

AAUG Protests Boston Symphony's Blacklisting of Vanessa Redgrave

In an April 2 letter to the Board of Directors of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, AAUG President John Makhoul urged the Board to reconsider its decision to cancel a series of April 1982 performances

featuring Vanessa Redgrave, citing "serious implications for the freedom of artistic expression, for the right of artists to work on the basis of their artistic merit alone, and for civil liberties." The Boston Symphony apparently yielded to pressure from individuals and groups who oppose Redgrave's advocacy of Palestinian rights.

Makhoul added: "Nor is the decision in the best interests of the Orchestra itself, as it creates a fertile ground for further intimidation of artists whose political beliefs a militant minority may oppose. Such a decision is contradictory to the best tradition of American art, a tradition that gave, for example, Black performers a platform — despite threats of violence and disruption from hate-filled groups." The AAUG firmly agrees, Makhoul stated, with Peter Sellars, who was scheduled to stage the all-Stravinsky programs featuring Redgrave, that "a blacklist is a blacklist" and cannot be tolerated.

The AAUG noted that "Ms. Redgrave's political beliefs should not be at issue here, but unfortunately, some have seen fit to judge her on these grounds. Thus, we must reply that Redgrave's commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people — 1.5 million of whom are under direct Israeli military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza — has been exceptionally courageous and principled, part and parcel of her activity against all forms of oppression and racism, including anti-semitism. For some in the Boston artistic community to see this commitment as grounds for condemnation is in itself very disturbing. We wonder, for example, can a Palestinian artist who supports his or her people never perform in Boston?"

Makhoul strongly urged the Board to reverse its decision, affirming that "we feel the great majority of Bostonians — including the Jewish community — would applaud such a principled act, as they have applauded the Symphony many times over for its cultural contribution to Boston life."

PLO Plans a TV University

As part of its program to establish itself as the representative of all Palestinians, the PLO is to set up its own university. The plan is to follow the example of Britain and Japan with a television 'open university' as part of an expansion of its social and economic programs, which include a mass literacy campaign and the computerization of its welfare payments system.

The university project backed by a Unesco feasibility study, will be run by the Palestine Liberation Organization's education department, which will establish its own television and audiovisual production unit. It will probably use the Syrian television service, which can be picked up in parts of neighbouring Jordan

and Lebanon, with back-up from local audiovisual centers.

A loan and technical assistance are being provided by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait, of which the PLO is a full member.

Palestinians have traditionally placed high value on education as a way of escaping the conditions of their exile. Palestinian scholars estimate that Palestinians, about 2.5 percent of the Arab world's population, provide about 10 percent of its graduate manpower.

Each year an estimated 70,000 Palestinians are working as students, a ratio of about 11 per thousand of population; the British figure is around 8 per thousand.

However, the PLO has been increasingly concerned that it has no say in the curriculum of courses followed by Palestinian students. The university will give it the chance to create a more Palestinian-oriented higher education.

Social and economic programs which bolster national consciousness and self-development have grown as the PLO has concentrated more and more on the diplomatic rather than military struggle.

An Appeal to General Secretary of the United Nations

The delegations participating in the International Seminar of Palestinian Jurists in Solidarity with the Palestinian Prisoners Day and the Uprising of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Territories, appealed to the United Nations to adopt a decisive and active position towards halting the severe treatment and sufferings of 4,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in more than 17 Israeli jails.

The prisoners are facing violent torture aiming to destroy their national steadfastness, dignity, and threatening their lives. This is being carried out by organized and programmed torture, which led to the martyrdom of more than 70 Palestinian prisoners; while hundreds are suffering from various medical diseases and illnesses, or at least one illness, due to these conditions and treatment.

Therefore, the delegation appealed to the United Nations to exert its utmost efforts, and pressure the Israeli authorities to end its policy of systemized slow death, torture and collective punishments against the Palestinian political prisoners, to improve the prison conditions, complying with international laws, and to release those who are ill, in particular those in critical health conditions. They appealed to the U.N. to form an international fact finding committee, to find the facts about the conditions of the prisoners and detainees, and to investigate to what effect the Israeli authorities respond to their efforts.

Israeli Army Officer: "Israel is Not a Democracy"



During the July 1981 Israeli attack on South Lebanon, the Palestinian forces captured an Israeli officer, Motti Mordkhai Druri, and has attempted to exchange him with Israel for the release of Palestinian political prisoners. Israel refused, and since then Lieutenant Motti remains a prisoner of war in Lebanon. Following are excerpts of an interview with him, published in *al-Hawadeth*, showing his opposition to Zionism and Israeli repressive policies:

Q: How are you treated by Palestinians?

Motti: The Palestinians amazed me.

When I fell prisoner I thought they will kill me, and I felt sorry for joining the Israeli army. You can see how I share food with my Palestinian guards. They have proven that we can live together in peace, and I would not have joined the Israeli army if I knew the Palestinians. Now I know that the idea of a "greater Israel" is nonsense and Israelis have to kill and shed blood to achieve it. We have to liberate ourselves from the Zionist complex and superiority.

Q: Have you witnessed the results of Israeli bombing in South Lebanon?

Motti: Yes, I have fought in the 1973 war and seen massive destruction and death. I can say without exaggeration that what the Nazis did to the Jews, our leaders are doing to the Palestinians. I now feel great guilt. I know the Palestinians are suffering because I live with them. I have overcome the psychological barriers and hatred imposed by our leaders, and I refuse to hate and I say farewell to guns.

Q: Where is your family?

Motti: They live in Jerusalem, and I wish to return and see them and tell them the truth. I receive letters from them regularly, and I also pray, and read and paint.

Q: What do you think will happen to you?

Motti: Only Begin can determine my destiny. I hope he will exchange me through the Red Cross, because there are thousands of Palestinian political prisoners in Israel and I hope some of them will be freed soon.

Q: You are an Oriental Jew?

Motti: Yes, from Iran. I emigrated to Israel with my family in 1965. As Oriental Jews, we suffer political, economic and social discrimination in Israel. European Jews have special privileges which we don't enjoy.

Q: What about democracy in Israel?

Motti: As an Oriental Jew, I don't believe there is a democracy in Israel, because I see every day the great privileges enjoyed by Western European Jews, and I also see the discrimination and persecution of Palestinian Arabs.

Q: Do you have any last message?

Motti: Yes, I want to send a message to Prime Minister Begin and tell him, "I am one of the victims of your racism", and to my officers in the Israeli army I say, "Do not believe all that you are told", and to my mother I say, "My longing to you is great and I hope we will one day return to our original country (Iran), because Israel has brought us suffering." Finally, I love freedom, and I hope all peoples will live in peace and without wars.

URGENT APPEAL

The United Holy Land Fund needs your help URGENTLY! Due to the disturbing and tragic events that are occurring in Palestine today, the UHLF is calling for an urgent nationwide appeal for help from all of its concerned friends and supporters. To date, 7 Palestinians have been killed, 31 have been shot and seriously wounded, 100s have been arrested, the Mayors of Ramallah, El Bireh and Nablus have been dismissed from their positions, and Bir Zeit University has been closed for two months. **WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT IGNORE THIS SITUATION!**

Our Palestinian brothers and sisters need our moral and financial support **NOW** more than ever. The institutions in Palestine supported by the UHLF are basically the sole means of medical, educational, social and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians. They are counting on us to help them through these difficult times. **WE MUST NOT DISAPPOINT THEM!**

Please take a moment right now to send your contribution. Please fill out the form below and mail it in the self-addressed envelope along with your check made payable to: **THE UNITED HOLY LAND FUND.**

Thank you on behalf of the UHLF, the institutions it supports, and the Palestinians who remain steadfast in their humanitarian struggle.

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(Continued from Page 3)

If the Palestinian people are greater than their leaders, I asked, how did they acquire such determination, such optimism for the future?

"Survival," Mahmoud Labadi, the PLO information spokesman, in the circle of men around Arafat, interposed, before Arafat could answer. "They don't have any other say. They want to survive. If they do not resist they will die. They have to be determined. It is the daily challenge they are facing."

Labadi had in effect answered for the Chairman but Arafat did not consider it his answer.

"You know why?" Arafat asked, his eyes now sharply focused on me. "It is the holy land. It is the *terra sancta*. It is not by chance that it is the land for the Muslims, the Christians, the Jews. You will not find one prophet of this area but who passed through or was born in Palestine. This is our heritage, this is our tradition. It is not by chance that the people have this spirit — their character, their strength are based on faith and we have this prophecy.

"If you want to discuss the revolution against Zionism by reason and what is going on now, you cannot understand it. We do not recognize any defeatism because our people have this prophecy in their minds and souls. And there was no civilization, all over the world, that did not pass through Palestine. It was the center."

And did Arafat think the Israelis might annex the West Bank?

"In my opinion," he said, "there is not a difference between occupation and annexation. What is the difference? I am very pragmatic, I am dealing with realities and facts. Not with big slogans. The facts are that we are here and we are the main important figure in the Middle East equation. No peace, no security, no settlement by over-jumping the Palestinian rights.

"They have declared the annexation of Jerusalem, but be sure: Jerusalem will be the capital of our independent state. No doubt of it! And the declaration of this annexation politically, for me, it is a sign of weakness, not of strength.

"And they are trying to give for their people — motives. Nothing more."

And was Arafat directing the resistance, inside the occupied territories — that is, within Gaza and the West Bank?

"No, I am not directing the resistance. Don't forget that in our Palestinian field we are dealing with democracy. We have a great respect for the wisdom of our leadership inside our occupied territories."

Was it better, politically, to be fighting inside rather than outside?

"It is a joint struggle. No one can separate us. It is true that there is strong cooperation and coordination between the Palestinians inside and outside our occupied territories.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editors:

I am writing to you concerning the articles published in the April 12, 1982 issue of 'Time' magazine, "Tension on the Borders", and "City of Protest and Prayer."

Both articles seemed to play down the importance of the dismissal of the Palestinian Mayors. In Israel, supposedly the island of Democracy in the Middle East, simply ousts *democratically* elected officials because they do not like their politics.

I find it rather disgusting that the American media is playing up the fact that Israel is returning the Sinai, supposedly carrying out the Camp David Peace Treaty. While at the same time, Begin is "relieving" Palestinian Mayors of their duties. What happened to the section of the Camp David Treaty that calls for Palestinian autonomy? The Camp David Treaty seems to be only a "piece" treaty.

The article about Jerusalem gives the impression that all Palestinians are Muslims. Many Palestinians, as are many Arabs in general, are Christians. The Palestinian Christians are a substantial minority in Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.

Later in the article, there is a statement about the sometimes "paranoic" fears of the West Bank Palestinians. How could such a statement even be printed when the severe oppression of the Palestinian people on the West Bank has been documented by such organizations as the International Red Cross and Amnesty International and such Israelis as Felicia Langer and Israel Shahak? The Israelis practice such oppressive measures as arresting Palestinians and detaining them in prisons, sometimes for years, without ever charging them or bringing them to trial, the late night searches of Palestinians' homes by Israeli soldiers, the sadistically cruel torture of Palestinians in Israeli prisons, and of course the vast confiscation of Palestinian land usually done in the name of 'Israeli Security.'

I wonder what punishment, if any, the Israeli who shot the Palestinian youth for throwing stones at his car will receive. Probably the same punishment as the ones who blew off the legs of Bassam Shakaa.

Melody Said

Mayor Karim Khalaf
Mayor Bassam Shakaa
P.O. Box 57042
Washington, D.C. 10037

Dear Esteemed Gentlemen:

It is with deep emotion and sympathy that I note your 'open appeal' in the Christian Science Monitor.

Although Israeli military repression against the Palestinian people and the American military support to Israel deeply disturbs me, I cannot imagine what I could possibly do to alleviate this deplorable situation, other than to write this letter to you gentlemen.

I am a responsible law-abiding American-born citizen, of middle income and age. While I have a positive and deep sense of patriotism for my country, I am probably even more concerned over the welfare and equitable treatment of all peoples in the world. Their continued oppression concerns me greatly.

I am disturbed by my country's handling of the Palestinian problem, of their continued biased attitude and actions in favoring Israel. The Israeli government is indeed wrong in its policies toward the Arab world; and they should be sanctioned. My sympathies have long been with the Palestinian people and I pray for them in their rightful quest for autonomy. All humans should have a homeland and the unquestioned ability to direct their own destinies.

Whether this letter will serve in any way to assist you in your unfortunate position, I do hope. Beyond this, I see nothing more that an individual American can do. In no way am I involved in my country's politics, other than endeavor to vote for the persons whom I believe to best serve; but I do want you to know how one American is concerned about you. There surely are many more of us with like concern.

With sincerity and respect,

Ms. L. Edwards

And as I have mentioned we have a great confidence in their wisdom.

"I will tell you a story. Some years ago, in 1967, when we declared we would continue our struggle, I went there, by myself, to the occupied territories. There was a big battle in Jenin. And the Israelis sent their forces, their army to Jenin. French journalists

asked Dayan about his big battle. What is going on? He said, you are asking about resistance? This Palestinian resistance is like an egg in my hand, I can smash this resistance easily.

"I remember, when I was in the United Nations, making my speech — while I was
(Continued on page 12)

Literature and Resources Available from the Palestine Information Office

The Palestinian Problem: An Annotated Bibliography of 1967-80	1.00
Toward Peace in Palestine	1.00
Zionist/Israeli Acts of Terrorism 1939-81	1.00
Palestine's Poet: Abu Salma	1.00
International Declarations, Zionism and Racism	1.00
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Films on Palestine	write for details
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West Bank just as they have annexed the Golan Heights. And their policies to control violence are creating more violence." (Houston Chronicle, 3/30/82).

"The object of Israel's policy in the West Bank and Gaza, as government officials forthrightly say, is permanent effective control of the territories. An accelerated process of absorption has gone far, in practical terms, toward that end." (Editorial by Anthony Lewis, New York Times, 3/22/82).

"To the extent that a state of three million can 'annex' the lands inhabited by 1.5 million unwilling people, the territories have been annexed." (Letter to the Editor, Merle Thorpe, Jr., President of the Foundation Middle East Peace, Washington Post, 4/5/82).

(Continued from page 11)

making my speech, Dayan was heading one of the demonstrations with signs saying, 'Arafat, Go Home.' I replied, "This is what I am trying to do."

And what will happen next? What is the future?

"Let actions speak. Because actions speak louder. Sharon and Samir and Begin have declared that they will be able to crush the PLO in the occupied territories, but he (Begin) is very silly. No one can smash four million Palestinians."

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